

### **Abstract**

Method and apparatus for providing a data interface application programming interface (API) to enable external data access to proprietary database systems. In accordance with one embodiment, a method for accessing data in a business database includes instantiating a company object as an instance of a company class conforming to a component object model standard, and setting a server property of the company object to a server name. The method also includes setting a company name property of the company object to the name of the business database, setting a user name property of the company object to the name of a user, setting a password property of the company object to a password of the user, and setting a language property of the company object to a desired language of the user. The method further includes invoking a connect method within the company object to open a software connection to the business database.

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